



SOMERSET COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Somerset County is the southern-most county on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Only 26 percent of its 209,424 acres is classified as farmland, but agriculture is the biggest industry in the county. The seafood, timber, and small industries are also important assets to its economy. Bordered on the west by the Chesapeake Bay, the overall topography would be termed flat.

In 1990 Somerset County had a population of 23,440 which indicates a slight increase from 1980. Points of interest include historic sites, Old Princess Anne Days and Crisfield Crab Derby.

Somerset County has a very important and diverse agriculture. The corn, soybeans, broilers, vegetables, livestock, and dairy produced make it rank fourth in agriculture value among Maryland counties.

SOMERSET COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	12,300	129.4	1,592,000
	1998		10,400	114.5	1,190,600
	1999		9,500	131.0	1,244,500
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	23,000	31.1	715,300
	1998		18,500	32.1	594,000
	1999		22,000	38.7	851,100
Wheat	1997	Bu.	6,700	73.0	489,000
	1998		5,200	43.5	226,000
	1999		5,300	70.9	375,600
Hay	1997	Tons.	1,100	3.5	3,800
	1998		1,000	3.4	3,400
	1999		1,400	3.2	4,500
Barley	1997	Bu.	900	83.0	82,000
	1998		800	64.0	51,200
	1999		*	*	*

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999				Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹	
Corn	12	Oats	³	Cattle	20
Wheat	11	Barley	3	Hogs	12
Hay	17	Soybeans	7	Sheep	²
				Milk Cows	16

SOMERSET COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		406	345	288
Average Size (acres)		158	161	190
Land in Farms (acres)		64,305	55,657	54,823
Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	2,066	2,276	1,916
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	14,273	7,222	2,080
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	181	²	²
Value of Sales ¹		1987	1992	1997
----- Thousand Dollars -----				
All Products		80,893	102,881	96,532
Crops		8,196	12,140	13,002
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products		72,697	90,741	83,530

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.
² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
³ Unranked - Data not published.
⁴ Revised.
* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)		NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	**	00.0	35.0	5.12	3.41
February		00.0	37.3	2.86	3.25
March	**	00.0	45.8	4.70	3.84
April	**	00.0	54.0	2.07	3.27
May	**	00.0	63.7	1.24	3.35
June	**	00.0	72.1	1.61	3.18
July	**	00.0	76.4	3.19	4.00
August	**	00.0	75.2	5.02	5.09
September		00.0	68.7	11.70	3.75
October	**	00.0	57.8	3.88	3.25
November	**	00.0	49.0	1.28	3.14
December	**	00.0	39.8	2.19	3.25
Annual	**	00.0	56.2	44.86	42.78

** Insufficient or partial data.

Number frost free days for 1999	**
Normal frost free days 1951-1980	172 <i>(1961-1990 Not available)</i>
Highest temperature	**
Lowest temperature	**

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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
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